

Shiitake Mushroom Kit

What to do with your Shiitake Mushroom Kit

#1 You will notice that your Shiitake Kit is enclosed with a plastic incubation bag featuring a square white filter patch. A date is written on this patch. If 40 days have not yet passed, leave your Shiitake Kit in its box, at room temperature: 55 to 75°F. **After 40 days:** **a)** if mushrooms have formed remove the block from the incubation bag (the one with the white filter patch) and go to step 5; **b)** if mushrooms have not formed go to step #2.

#2 If mushrooms have not yet formed, chill your Mushroom Kit by placing it in a refrigerator for 3 - 5 days. The bag should remain sealed and un-opened.

#3 After 3-5 days, remove your Shiitake Mushroom Kit from the refrigerator. Unfold the bag to an upright position. Taking a pair of scissors, cut the back horizontally just below the seal. Add cool water until the entire block is submerged. You may wish to place a pan underneath the bag should any leaks developed. Leave emerge for 24 hours. **DO NOT USE CHLORINATED OR DISTILLED WATER!** Spring, well or rainwater are best, although boil tap water will also work if you have nothing else.

#4 After this period of cold soaking, drain off the excess water by tilting your Shiitake Kit upside down. Remove the original bag - the one with the white filter patch holding the block. Once drained, set your Shiitake Kit in a location that is out of direct sunlight, but exposed to indirect natural light (if there is enough light to read these directions, there is enough light for your Shiitake Kit), and where temperatures range from 60- 80°F.

#5 Place the humidity tent that we have provided (the bag with the numerous large holes) over the Shiitake block. To keep the humidity tent inflated, used chopsticks, skewers or knitting needles. They can be poked on the top, directly into the Shiitake block (forming posts to hold up the humidity tent). Begin misting the surface of the exposed Shiitake block three to four times a day for the next 5 to 10 days using spring, well, rain or boil tap water.

#6 After 5 to 10 days of misting, you will notice “blisters” forming on the surface and around the edges of the mushroom block. These are young mushrooms in the process of forming. Continue misting frequently and with regularity. You may remove the humidity tent during misting just make sure you put it back each time you're finished. Ideally, moisture droplets should always be present. If condensation is not a parent, then increase the misting frequency.

#7 Mushrooms emerge and develop to full maturity within two weeks from the cold soak. When the mushrooms begin to press against the sides of the humidity tent, the tent should be removed to prevent the growing mushrooms from deforming. Continue to water your block regularly. It may be necessary to increase your frequency of water in order to compensate for the removal of the tent. The best stage to harvest the mushrooms is when they are 3-6 inches in diameter. Mushrooms from the first flush are often light brown in color and numerous. Subsequent flushes result in darker brown mushrooms of thicker flesh. Cut mushrooms all with scissors at the base of each stem, leaving as little stem protruding above the surface of the block as possible.

#8 Once the crop has been picked, allow a kit to dry out. Remove the humidity tent, and don't water the block for two weeks. During this period of dormancy, the mushroom Kit is storing nutrients, getting ready for the next flush. Once this period of rest has passed, soak the block in a bucket of water for 24 hours... you do **not** need to refrigerate.

As your Shiitake Kit ages, its color will naturally change from white to brown. This is normal. A leather-like skin will eventually develop through which mushrooms will break out after the soaking process.

Where to place your Shiitake Mushroom Kit

You do not have to keep your Mushroom Kit in the dark!

Avoid direct sunlight - filtered or indirect light is ideal.

Home or Office - Your Mushroom Kit can be put anywhere you have about 1 square foot of open space in your home or office. Your Mushroom Kit will perform at normal room temperatures: however, the humidity is probably too low in most areas in your home or office. If the error is not moist enough, either the mushrooms will not start to form or the pinheads will abort as they form on the surface of the mushroom block. Remember to tent your Mushroom Kit with the provided humidity tent.

Greenhouse/Solarium - Mushrooms grow best in a warm (65° to 72°F) high humidity area. A greenhouse or solarium could be an ideal place for your new Mushroom Kit.

Bathroom - The bathroom is the moistest room in your house, which a nice location for your Mushroom Kit.

RECYCLE YOUR MUSHROOM KIT

After you have harvested your last flush of mushrooms, remove the remaining contents from the bag.

1. Wash out the pan with soap and water and put it away for your next Mushroom Kit.
2. Crumble up the mushroom block and mix the content with five times as much soil. You now have a great potting soil with natural slow release fertilizer for your potted plants.
3. Allow the block to dry and crumble it in a thin layer around a few plants outdoors or use it as a thin top dressing for a few potted plants - a natural fertilizer.

The Mushroom Kit was developed and is produced for personal, noncommercial use by our customers. In purchasing and/or accepting the Mushroom Kit the receiver agrees that it and its contents will not be resold, used to generate spawn for resale, or for any commercial use without the written consent of The Mushroom Patch, Ltd.

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Mushroom blocks are made with all natural products and contain no synthetic additives nor are they treated with ANY pesticides.



Sit all kits upright upon their arrival.

Make sure the bag inflates with air as soon as possible by holding the top corners of the bag in midair...allowing the weight of the bag to PULL downward so that air is forced through the small white filter patch.